

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Amend claims 1-12 and add new claims 13-22 as shown below:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method of representing users (1, 2, 3, 4) on a display device (21, 22, 23, 24) in a telecommunications conferencing facility by means of animated graphical representations corresponding to the respective users, wherein the users (1, 2, 3, 4) are depicted as carrying out symbolic animated actions, relating to the various events taking place during the virtual telecommunications conferencing process, each user (1) being presented with a view of a respective viewpoint representative of the position of that user (1) in a virtual space and in which the other users (2, 3, 4) and their activities are represented by means of graphical representations, and characterised in that in the virtual space being viewed from a respective viewpoint, and relative positions and relative movements presented to each user (1) the representations of each of the other users (2, 3, 4) are in positions, and have movements, relative to each other and the viewpoint in the virtual space being selected according to the respective viewpoint of the user (1).

2. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~ as in claim 1, wherein for each user (1), the representations of each of the other users (2,3,4) are arranged such that they are all contained within the field of view of the user's display device (21).

3. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~ as in claim 2, in which the symbolic actions are selected such that they take place within a fixed field of view.

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4. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~ as in claim 1, wherein the accessing of a facility by one user (1) for viewing by other users (2,3,4) is represented in a different manner for the viewing users (2,3,4) and the accessing user (1).

5. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~ as in claim 1 wherein users (3) not currently actively engaged in the telecommunications conference are represented in a different manner from those currently viewing the conference (2,4).

6. (Currently Amended) Telecommunications conferencing system comprising display control means (10, 11, 12, 13, 14) for representing users on display devices (21, 22, 23, 24) by means of animated graphical representations corresponding to the respective users (1,2,3,4), the display control means being arranged to depict animated symbolic actions carried out by the users, relating to the various events taking place during the virtual telecommunications conferencing process, each user (1) being presented with a view of a respective virtual space from a viewpoint representative of the position of that user (1) in the virtual space and for presenting, to ~~each~~ the user a

representation of the other users and their activities; ~~characterised in that~~wherein the display control means (10, 11, 12, 13, 14) ~~is arranged to represent~~s the presence and activities of each other user (2,3,4) ~~to each other user (1)~~ by means of symbolic positions and movements, ~~presented to each user (1)~~animations such that in the ~~viewpoint~~presented to each user (1) respective virtual space the representations of each of the other users (2,3,4) ~~are~~ respective relative positions, ~~and have relative movements, selected~~ according to the viewpoint of the user (1) in the space.

A⁷ 7. (Currently Amended) Conferencing system ~~according to~~as in claim 6, wherein the display control means is arranged to represent, for each user (1), each of the other users (2,3,4) such that they are all subtended within the field of view of the display device (21) of that user (1).

8. (Currently Amended) Conferencing system ~~according to~~as in claim 7, in which the symbolic actions are selected such that they take place within a fixed field of view.

9. (Currently Amended) Conferencing system ~~according to~~claim 6 comprising means for accessing a facility by one user (1) ~~for viewing by other users (2,3,4)~~ wherein the accessed facility is represented in a different manner for the viewing users and the accessing user.

10. (Currently Amended) Conferencing system ~~according to~~ as in claim 6 wherein the display control means ~~(10, 11, 13, 14)~~ is arranged to represent users ~~(3)~~ not currently actively engaged in the telecommunications conference in a different manner from those ~~(2, 4)~~ currently viewing the conference.

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11. (Currently Amended) System ~~according to~~ as in claim 6 comprising client means ~~(11, 12, 13, 14)~~ associated with each user ~~(1, 2, 3, 4)~~ for generating at least part of the user's viewpoint.

12. (Currently Amended) System ~~according to~~ as in claim 6 comprising server means ~~(10)~~ accessible by each user ~~(1, 2, 3, 4)~~ for generating at least part of the users' viewpoints.

✓ 13. (New) A virtual conferencing method comprising:
telecommunicating information between plural conferees;
creating a virtual conference space with icons therewithin respectively representing said conferees; and
A8 displaying to each said conferee a respectively unique visual display that depicts said virtual conference space, and the other conferee icons, from that particular conferee's own unique viewpoint.

14. (New) A virtual conferencing method as in claim 13 wherein:

said conferee icons are animated to represent different symbolic animated actions if any such action is currently associated with a respective conferee.

15. (New) A virtual conferencing method as in claim 14 wherein:
said symbolic animated actions include actions indicating a desire to conclude the conference.

16. (New) A virtual conferencing method as in claim 13 wherein the relative positional order of icons depicted in said virtual conference space for each conferee remains constant.

17. (New) A virtual conferencing method as in claim 16 wherein the angular separation between icons depicted in said virtual conference space is not constant.

18. (New) A virtual conferencing system comprising:
a telecommunications network for telecommunicating information between plural conferees;

a server and terminals connected with said telecommunications network and creating a virtual conference space with icons therewithin respectively representing said conferees; and

a display device connected to each said terminal and displaying to each said conferee a respectively unique visual display that depicts said virtual conference space, and the other conferee icons, from that particular conferee's own unique viewpoint.

19. (New) A virtual conferencing system as in claim 18 wherein:
said conferee icons are animated to represent different symbolic animated actions
if any such action is currently associated with a respective conferee.

20. (New) A virtual conferencing system as in claim 19 wherein:
said symbolic animated actions include actions indicating a desire to conclude the
conference.

21. (New) A virtual conferencing system as in claim 18 wherein the relative
positional order of icons depicted in said virtual conference space for each conferee
remains constant.

22. (New) A virtual conferencing system as in claim 21 wherein the angular
separation between icons depicted in said virtual conference space is not constant.
